## ABSTRACT

A system for managing a bill of materials includes a data
structure having at least one record with a primary key data
5    field, an owner data field for indicating the owner of the
record, the owner data field including data representative of one
of a plurality of owners, and at least one other data field.  In
another aspect, the system for managing a bill of materials
includes a database having a single namespace, and at least one
10   record with a primary key data field, an owner data field for
indicating the owner of the record, the owner data field
including data representative of one of a plurality of owners,
and at least one other data field.